

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on May 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Ribaut Road. In attendance were Mayor Pro Tem George H. O'Kelley, Council members Donnie Ann Beer, Gary B. Fordham, Mike Sutton, and City Manager Scott Dadson. Mayor Bill Rauch was out of town. In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor Pro Tem called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Major Dan Whittaker of the Salvation Army. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem O'Kelley.

RESOLUTION

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, Council voted to adopt the resolution commending Dave Radford for serving on the Municipal Joint Planning Commission. (Copy of resolution at end of these minutes)

PROCLAMATION

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, Council voted to adopt the proclamation designating June 8-10, 2007 as Xi Gamma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Weekend.

MINUTES – APRIL 24, 2007

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of April 24, 2007 were presented to Council for review. On motion by Councilman Fordham, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council approved the minutes as presented.

MINUTES – MAY 1, 2007

The minutes of the special City Council meeting of May 1, 2007 were reviewed by Council. Councilman Fordham moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Beer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

MINUTES – MAY 8, 2007

On motion by Councilman Fordham, second by Councilwoman Beer, the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of May 8, 2007 were adopted as presented.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #6 TO THE FY06 CITY BUDGET

The ordinance adjusting the FY06 budget for the \$6,000 received from the State to update equipment in the mobile kitchen and a portion of the \$31,728 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant was presented for second reading and adoption.

Councilwoman Beer moved to adopt the ordinance on second reading. Councilman Fordham gave second. The vote was unanimous. (Copy of Ordinance at end of May 8, 2007 minutes)

RESOLUTION APPROVING INVESTMENT POLICY

The resolution approving the Investment Policy was presented for adoption.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, Council adopted the ordinance on second reading. (Copy of resolution at end of these minutes)

ORDINANCE ADOPTING BOUNDARY STREET REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The ordinance adopting the Boundary Street Redevelopment Plan was presented for second reading and adoption.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Sutton, Council adopted the ordinance on second reading. (Copy of ordinance at end of the May 8, 2007 minutes)

ORDINANCE REGARDING THE GOVERNANCE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The ordinance regarding the governance of the nine member Redevelopment Commission consisting of the five members of City Council and the four existing Commission members was presented for second reading and adoption.

Councilwoman Beer moved to adopt the ordinance on second reading. Councilman Fordham seconded the motion.

Councilman O’Kelley questioned how it will be determined which three of the four original commissioners will have the initial one-year term which is stated in the ordinance. The City Manager suggested the three appointed first would have one-year appointments and the last one appointed would have a two-year appointment and those terms would begin upon adoption of the ordinance.

Councilman Sutton asked how a quorum would be established. The City Manager replied that all nine members are voting members and it is incumbent upon all members to be present at meetings. It is the chairman’s responsibility to schedule the meetings and issues.

The ordinance was unanimously adopted on second reading. (Copy of ordinance at end of the 2007 minutes)

ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 6-1007, GARBAGE COLLECTIONS

The ordinance repealing Section 6-1007 of the City Code of Ordinances regarding fees related to garbage collection and recyclables was presented for second reading and adoption.

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fordham, to adopt the ordinance on second reading. The motion was unanimous.

PARADE REQUEST

A request by the chairman of the Memorial Day Parade to use an alternate route for their May 28 parade because of the traffic created by the damage to the McTeer Bridge was presented to Council.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the request using the alternate route. Councilman Fordham gave second.

Because the traditional parade route closure would hinder traffic, the following alternate route was proposed. It would begin at the Grand Army Hall on New Castle Street proceeding right on Congress Street, right on Charles Street, right on Bay Street, right on Bladen Street and left to Green Street where the parade would end at the Green Street gym.

Council unanimously approved the request to use an alternate route for the Memorial Day Parade, subject to approval by the SC Highway Department with traffic control provided by the City Police Department.

REQUEST TO PLACE VENDING CART IN WATERFRONT PARK

A request by H. Lucius Laffitte, Jr. to conduct sidewalk vending, specializing in snow cones and lemonade, in the Waterfront Park between the playground and the grass open space was presented to Council.

Councilman Sutton made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Beer, to approve the business license application for the vending cart in the Waterfront Park.

The City Manager outlined the four locations listed in the ordinance stating the request is a variance from the ordinance. One of the locations is only for selling flowers and one is at the Multi-government Center. Mr. Laffitte is asking for an area between the playground and the grass open space near the end of Scott Street. The other two approved areas are downtown Bay Street at the entrance to the Waterfront Park at West Street and the patio south of the pavilion on the west side. He reminded Council the area that is being requested was not part of the Park when the ordinance was adopted. Also, if the carts are to be allowed in the Park, sections of the ordinance may need revising. Mr. O'Kelley stated there is a small paved area between the pavilion and the promenade at the Waterfront and that may be the area for which he is asking.

Councilman Sutton commented that the ordinance meets the intent of keeping carts away from established businesses who sold like products and away from congested roadways. The Park is a good venue and there probably is a demand for this type business there. He said it is time to review the ordinance pertaining to vending in the Park. He also suggested an interim agreement for the requested location while staff is studying it. Mr. O'Kelley said to avoid numerous vending carts, Council may want to amend the ordinance limiting them in the same manner as the carriages. The City Manager mentioned there may be issues regarding Park maintenance to be addressed by the Parks Department, also. Councilwoman Beer agreed the Park should not be filled with carts and cleanup is an issue. Councilman Fordham expressed his concern with commercializing the Park. Mr. O'Kelley said he is not opposed to trying it on a provisional basis and limiting the request to the allowable areas.

The motion to approve the request for placement of the cart in the location stated and the second were withdrawn. The applicant will be advised of the available locations as stated in the ordinance

Council requested staff review the ordinance and consider limiting the number of vendors allowed.

Joy Locke, Main Street Beaufort Executive Director, asked if a vendor requested services at the Park, would he be charged. Council agreed that if water or electricity were part of the request there would be a charge.

REQUEST FOR CITY TO CO-SPONSOR AMERICAN WIND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A request by Main Street Beaufort for the City to co-sponsor the American Wind Symphony Orchestra Concert on June 3, 2007 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Waterfront Park was presented to Council.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the request. Councilman Fordham gave second.

Councilman Sutton recused himself since he was presenting the request. He reminded Council this event has been held at the waterfront before. This is short notice; however, SCANA/SCE&G has asked the City to co-sponsor by providing the venue for a free concert in the Waterfront Park on Sunday evening, June 3rd. Since security deposits for events are not waived and he is the chairman of this committee, he paid the deposit. He asked how this will be handled in the future in case there is damage to the Park. Main Street Beaufort is listed as the applicant and provided the insurance coverage. Councilman O'Kelley stated ordinarily an organization is the sponsor and they are responsible for the security deposit.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Kelley said if a long term policy is needed for the future, that can't be done tonight. Councilman Sutton suggested budgeting the security deposit for City sponsored events.

Council members Beer, Fordham, and O'Kelley voted to approve the request. Councilman Sutton did not vote. The vote was 3 in favor, one recusal.

FY 2008 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The City Manager presented the proposed FY2008 City Budget which contains three major funds, a General Fund, Capital Budget, a Redevelopment Budget, and the five year financial plans for each. He is recommending an increase in the property tax of 8.82 mils for a total of 61.62 mils. He is recommending an increase in Building Permit fees in the General Fund, an increase in household garbage monthly services of \$1.00 per month and a recycling fee increase of \$.50 a month.

Highlights of his budget message included: reclassifications are being requested by the departments which he put on hold pending a compensation and benefit study, capital purchases and new positions have been eliminated this budget year, and while a 4% COLA is being recommended it would not go into effect until January 1st.

Two workshops are scheduled for June 14 and 21 to discuss the budget and the Public Hearing will be held on June 12th along with first reading of the ordinances.

COUNCIL REPORTS

SUTTON: Councilman Sutton said he is continually being asked by the merchants that a left turn be allowed onto Craven Street so people can access the core commercial area but he doesn't think it can be accomplished.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

BILL RAUCH, MAYOR

COUNCILWOMAN DONNIE ANN BEER

COUNCILMAN GARY B. FORDHAM

COUNCILMAN GEORGE H. O'KELLEY, JR.

COUNCILMAN MIKE SUTTON

ATTEST:

BEVERLY W. GAY, CITY CLERK